Appln No. 10/773,958
Response to Office Action mailed June 23, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (currently amended) A method for updating an electronic contact information database comprising the steps of:

receiving an electronic message at a system of a contact having ~~by~~ an electronic message application in execution thereon;

intercepting the electronic message by an automated reply filter cooperatively in execution on the system of the contact with the electronic message application prior to storage thereof within an inbox of the electronic message application;

parsing information fields within the intercepted electronic message to determine that the electronic message is one of an update request message and another message;

providing all other messages for storage within the inbox;

generating a new electronic message including data indicative of current contact information for the contact in reply to a determined update request message; and

transmitting the generated new electronic message from the system of the contact via a communication network.

Claim 20 (original) A method for updating an electronic contact information database as defined in claim 19 wherein the new electronic message generated by the automated reply process contains information retrieved from the memory accessible to the automated reply process.

Claim 21 (original) A method for updating an electronic contact information database as defined in claim 20 absent a step of storing an electronic update message within the inbox.

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Claim 22 (original) A method for updating an electronic contact information database as defined in claim 19 comprising the steps of:

provising updated contact information to a first system, the updated contact information relating to a user of the first system;

transmitting an electronic message including the updated contact information to a second other system via an electronic communication medium;

receiving the transmitted updated contact information at the second other system;

automatically extracting from the received updated contact information contact information relating to the user of the first system; and,

automatically updating the contact information of the user of the first system within a contact database in dependence upon the extracted information.

Claim 23 (original) A method for updating an electronic contact information database as defined in claim 22 wherein the updated contact information is transmitted as an electronic message and wherein the step of receiving includes the following steps:

receiving an electronic message at the second other system by an electronic message application;

intercepting the electronic message by an automated reply filter cooperatively in execution with the electronic message application prior to storage thereof within an inbox of the electronic message application;

parsing information fields within the intercepted electronic message to determine that the electronic message is one of update contact information and another message;

providing all other messages for storage within the inbox.

Claim 24 (currently amended) A method for updating an electronic contact information database comprising the steps of:

providing updated contact information to a first system, the updated contact information relating to a user of the first system;

transmitting an electronic message including the updated contact information from the first system to a second other system via an electronic communication medium;

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receiving the transmitted updated contact information at the second other system;

automatically extracting from the received updated contact information contact information relating to the user of the first system; and,

automatically updating the contact information of the user of the first system within a contact database in dependence upon the extracted information.

Claims 25-28 (cancelled)

Claim 29 (previously presented) A method for updating an electronic contact information database comprising the steps of:

receiving an electronic message at a system of a contact by an electronic message application;

intercepting the electronic message by an automated reply filter cooperatively in execution with the electronic message application upon storage thereof within an inbox of the electronic message application;

parsing information fields within the intercepted electronic message to determine that the electronic message is one of an update request message and another message;

deleting the intercepted message relating to an update request from the inbox of the electronic message application;

generating a new electronic message including data indicative of current contact information for the contact in reply to a determined update request message; and

transmitting the generated new electronic message via a communication network.

Claim 30 (previously presented) A method for updating an electronic contact information database as defined in claim 29 wherein the new electronic message generated by the automated reply process contains information retrieved from the memory accessible to the automated reply process.

Claim 31 (previously presented) A method for updating an electronic contact information database as defined in claim 29 comprising the steps of:

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providing updated contact information to a first system, the updated contact information relating to a user of the first system;

transmitting an electronic message including the updated contact information to a second other system via an electronic communication medium;

receiving the transmitted updated contact information at the second other system;

automatically extracting from the received updated contact information contact information relating to the user of the first system; and,

automatically updating the contact information of the user of the first system within a contact database in dependence upon the extracted information.

Claim 32 (previously presented) A method for updating an electronic contact information database as defined in claim 31 wherein the received transmitted updated contact information is received in the form of an electronic mail message.

Claim 33 (previously presented) A method for updating an electronic contact information database as defined in claim 32 wherein the received transmitted updated contact information is deleted after the step of automatically extracting.

Claim 34 (previously presented) A method for updating an electronic contact information database as defined in claim 31 wherein the updated contact information is transmitted as an electronic message and wherein the step of receiving includes the following steps:

receiving an electronic message at the second other system by an electronic message application;

intercepting the electronic message by an automated reply filter cooperatively in execution with the electronic message application prior to storage thereof within an inbox of the electronic message application;

parsing information fields within the intercepted electronic message to determine that the electronic message is one of update contact information and another message; providing all other messages for storage within the inbox.

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Claim 35 (new) A method according to claim 19

wherein the electronic message application is in execution on the system of the contact;

wherein the automated reply filter is in execution on the system of the contact;

and wherein the generated new electronic message is transmitted from the system of the contact via the communication network.

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